

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00723 01 OF 02 180755Z

12-S  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 EB-07 FEA-01 EUR-12 TRSE-00 /082 W  
----- 079016

R 180648Z JUN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0581  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DOHA 0723

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: QA, PINT, PINS  
SUBJ: QATAR: BREEZES OF CHANGE

REF: DOHA 713, 708, AND 597

1. SUMMARY: REFTELS HAVE DESCRIBED LARGELY NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF AMIR OF QATAR AND HIS REGIME'S EFFORTS TO COPE WITH STRESSES AND STRAINS THAT GO WITH RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SMALL COUNTRY. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, MANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN SITUATION. RECENT PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS PLACING QATARIS IN KEY POSITIONS; MORE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; POSSIBLE REFORM OF CABINET; PLANNED EXPANSION OF POWERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL; POSSIBLE INTEGRATION OF PALESTINIANS; AND MEASURES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE GENERAL RATHER THAN PRIVILEGED WELFARE, INDICATE SOME RECOGNITION OF LEGITIMATE POPULAR DEMANDS AND, THEREFORE, HOPE FOR EVOLUTIONARY FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT WEEKS, AMIR HAS MOVED TO DELEGATE SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITY AND TO PLACE YOUNG QATARIS IN AT LEAST NOMINALLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DOHA 00723 01 OF 02 180755Z

IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN GOQ BUREAUCRACY. WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY

TOLD THAT AMIR HAS GIVEN FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM AND HIS SECOND SON, TO DEAL WITH OIL COMPANIES ON PRESENT STICKY PRICE IMPASSE AND 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH COMPANY REPS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT ABDUL AZIZ HAS BOTCHED SITUATION BADLY, AMIR'S ACTION IN THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AREA IS NOTABLE DEPARTURE FROM HIS USUAL PRACTICE OF HANDLING DIRECTLY ALL IMPORTANT MATTERS. HERETOFORE HE HAS REGARDED CABINET MINISTERS, MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE FAMILY MEMBERS, AS NONENTITIES INCAPABLE OF ASSUMING ANY RESPONSIBILITIES. SINCE THIS IS TO A GREAT MEASURE TRUE, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT AMIR WISHES TO FURTHER REORGANIZE CABINET INTO FUNCTIONING AND RESPONSIBLE BODY. WE HAVE HEARD, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT BRIGHT YOUNG DOCTOR WHO IS NO. 2 IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WHO ACTUALLY DOES RUN IT, IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR ELEVATION TO MINISTERIAL RANK. IT IS ALSO RUMORED THAT VACANT PORTFOLIO AT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, FORMERLY HELD BY FAMILY MEMBER WHO WAS KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT, WILL BE GIVEN TO A COMPETENT YOUNG NON-SHAYKH. FURTHER RE CABINET ORGANIZATION, AMIR IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO OVERSEE AND BRING SOME ORDER TO GOVT ACTIVITIES IN NOW CHAOTIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION FIELDS. CABINET RESHUFFLE, HOWEVER, MUST PROBABLY AWAIT AMIR'S DESIGNATION OF CROWN PRINCE, AND THERE IS NO PRESENT INDICATION THAT HE HAS OVERCOME HIS RELUCTANCE TO MOVE ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE.

3. OTHER SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING PAST MONTH. A YOUNG U.S. ENGINEERING GRADUATE HAS BEEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICITY DISPLACING LONGTIME INCUMBENT, A JOURNEYMAN UK NATIONAL. WE HEAR THAT SIMILAR MOVE TO DISPLACE BRITISH LEGACY IS TO COME IN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS. BOTH THESE POSITIONS ARE HOT SPOTS BECAUSE OF INTENSE ACTIVITY IN GOVT CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAMS. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS ALSO ACQUIRED NEW PERSONNEL LOOK. DIRECTORSHIPS OF BROADCASTING, TV AND OTHER MAJOR DEPTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO YOUNG QATARIS, WHO HAVE DISPLACED PALESTINIAN EXPATRIATES. LOCAL CYNICS HAVE DISCOUNTED IMPORTANCE OF THESE PERSONNEL SHIFTS, POINTING OUT THAT PREVIOUS INCUMBENTS OF THESE POSITIONS HAVE MERELY BEEN KICKED UPSTAIRS TO "ADVISORY" POSITIONS FROM WHICH THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RUN THEIR FORMER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DOHA 00723 01 OF 02 180755Z

SHOPS AT HIGHER SALARY. THIS MAY BE TRUE IN INITIAL PHASE, BUT WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH QUALITY OF THESE QATARI OFFICIALS AND BELIEVE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY TAKE FULL CONTROL.

4. EVEN MORIBUND FOREIGN MINISTRY IS BEING SHAPED-UP. WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS, FOUR YOUNG U.S. AND U.K.-EDUCATED QATARIS, WHO HAVE BEEN HANGING AROUND MINISTRY FOR A YEAR IN OFFICE BOY POSITIONS, HAVE BEEN APPOINTED RESPECTIVELY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL,

ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS.  
BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS HAVE TESTIFIED TO SHARPNESS OF  
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIRECTORS WHO HAD CALLED THEM ON CARPET  
FOR SHARPLY WORDED PROTEST AGAINST EC TREATY WITH ISRAEL.  
TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS ONE OF FIRST INITIATIVES OF ITS KIND  
FROM MINISTRY.

5. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL ACTION IS AS YET UN-  
ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF A QATARI GENERAL MANAGER FOR NEWLY  
FORMED GOVT OIL COMPANY, QATAR NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY.  
CANDIDATE IS TRAINED ECONOMIST WHO IS BOTH KNOWLEDGEABLE AND  
EXPERIENCED IN OPEC AFFAIRS. HIS OUTSPOKENNESS IN HIS PREVIOUS  
POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS AT MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE AND PETROLEUM INCURRED WRATH OF BOTH AMIR AND OIL  
MINISTER, ABDUL AZIZ, AND CAUSED HIM TO BE BANISHED FOR A  
YEAR'S GRADUATE WORK IN U.K. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT BOTH AMIR  
AND MINISTER CONTINUE TO DETEST THIS MAN PERSONALLY, BUT HAVE  
PUT THEIR FEELINGS ASIDE SINCE HE MOST ABLE CANDIDATE AVAILABLE.  
OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE APPLAUDED PREDICTED APPOINTMENT SINCE,  
ALTHOUGH THEY REGARD MAN AS NO PARTICULAR FRIEND OF COMPANIES,  
THEY RESPECT HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00723 02 OF 02 180817Z

12-S  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 EB-07 FEA-01 EUR-12 TRSE-00 /082 W  
----- 079196

R 180648Z JUN 75  
FM AMEMBASY DOHA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0582  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DOHA 0723

6. AMIR HAS ALSO TRIED TO FORM "KITCHEN CABINET" WITHIN PALACE TO RIDE HERD ON BUREAUCRACY BY MONITORING AND EXPEDITING CONSTRUCTION, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER PROJECTS. ALTHOUGH "KITCHEN CABINET" HAS HAD ITS UPS AND DOWNS, IT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN

UNCOVERING MAJOR FAULTS IN IMPORTANT AIRPORT AND HOSPITAL PROJECTS, AND EFFORTS TO BEEF IT UP AND ESTABLISH A QUALITY CONTROL MECHANISM IN PALACE CONTINUE.

7. AMIR ALSO APPEARS TO BE MOVING TO MEET PRESSURE CREATED BY LARGE EXPATRIATE PRESENCE IN COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY PALESTINIANS. AMIR TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT HE BELIEVES PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY AND RAISED AND EDUCATED FAMILIES IN QATAR, DESERVE PRIVILEGES OF CITIZENSHIP, AND WE HAVE HAD HEARD THAT SEVERAL LONG-TERM RESIDENT PALESTINIANS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GRANTED CITIZENSHIP. THIS SHARP DEPARTURE FROM CURRENT RESTRICTIVE CITIZENSHIP POLICY WOULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY LARGE AND INFLUENTIAL PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY, WHICH DEEPLY RESENTS MANY DISCRIMINATIONS AGAINST IT BECAUSE OF NONCITIZEN STATUS. (COMMENT: OFFER OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DOHA 00723 02 OF 02 180817Z

QATARI CITIZENSHIP SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF PALESTINIANS IS TWO-EDGED SWORD SINCE MANY QATARIS WOULD RESENT SHARING PATRIMONY WITH PALESTINIANS WHO REGARDED BY MANY AS PARASITIC CARPET-BAGGERS.)

8. AMIR ALSO APPEARS TO BE PREPARED TO BOW TO PRESSURES FOR MORE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN COUNTRY. IN DECREE OF APRIL 28 HE DECLARED HIS INTENTION TO EXPAND MEMBERSHIP AND POWERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH DETAILS NOT SPELLED OUT. WE HAVE LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE PLANS TO EXPAND MEMBERSHIP FROM 20 TO 30 MEMBERS, ALTHOUGH THESE STILL TO BE APPOINTED BY AMIR. RE POWERS OF COUNCIL, GOVT PRESENTLY REQUIRED TO SEND ALL DRAFT LEGISLATION TO COUNCIL FOR "COMMENT". AMIRI DECREES, ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS AND OTHER FIATS ARE PRESENTLY EXEMPT FROM "COMMENT." NEW POWERS, ACCORDING TO PALACE SOURCE, WILL BE CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED. ALL DRAFT LEGISLATION, DECREES, PROPOSALS, ETC., IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR "COMMENT". (ACCORDING PALACE SOURCE, POLITICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, PROPOSALS, DECREES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC., THAT ARE NOT EMBODIED IN LEGISLATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXEMPT FROM COUNCIL REVIEW.) COUNCIL NOW ONLY REACTIVE BODY. ENLARGED POWERS WILL PERMIT IT TO INITIATE ACTION PROPOSALS, AGAIN ONLY IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AREAS, AND CABINET MINISTERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL WHEN SUMMONED TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS IN THESE THREE FIELDS. WHILE EXPANDED POWERS OF COUNCIL SEEM SMALL IN COMPARISON WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES OF KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN,

THEY ARE MAJOR INNOVATION FOR QATAR.

9. AMIR HAS ALSO MADE EFFORTS TO IMPOSE GOVT CONTROLS TO PROMOTE GENERAL WELFARE IN SUCH FIELDS AS PRICES, RENTS, ZONING AND LAND USE. THESE HAVE BEEN LARGELY A FAILURE, SINCE THEY HAVE TOUCHED WHAT SHAYKHS AND RULING FAMILY MEMBERS REGARD AS THEIR TRADITIONAL PREROGATIVES TO EXPLOIT THEIR LAND HOLDINGS AND INFLUENCE FOR ALL THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR. THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEFIED RULER AND IGNORED CONTROLS. HOWEVER, FACT REMAINS THAT EFFORT WAS MADE TO CURB THEIR EXCESSES.

10. COMMENT: PICTURE THAT EMERGES FROM OUR CURRENT SURVEY OF INTERNAL QATARI SCENE IS A MIXED ONE AND DOUBTLESS TYPICAL OF TRADITIONAL REGIME TRYING TO ADJUST TO PRESSURE COOKER  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DOHA 00723 02 OF 02 180817Z

MODERNIZATION OF SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT SITUATION. EACH ITEM OF CATALOG OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ELEMENTS DEPICTS DAILY OPERATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DILEMMAS FACED BY AMIR, HIS REGIME AND QATARI PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OBVIOUS STRESSES BASED ON INSENSITIVITY OF REGIME, THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE THAT AMIR RECOGNIZES NEED TO INTERACT WITH GROWING DEMANDS OF PEOPLE. ON DEPTH OF THAT RECOGNITION DEPENDS EVOLUTIONARY QATARI FUTURE.  
PAGANELLI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DOHA00723  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750211-1220  
**From:** DOHA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750636/aaaabgeo.tel  
**Line Count:** 252  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 DOHA 713, 75 708, 75 AND 597  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** QATAR: BREEZES OF CHANGE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, QA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006